

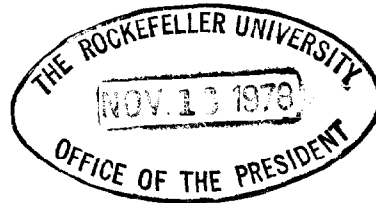
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418

November 1, 1978

MEMORANDUM

The Membership
National Academy of Sciences



At the Annual Meeting in April it was announced that the Council had approved a plan to erect a memorial to Albert Einstein on the grounds of the Academy. This will provide a progress report and offer an opportunity for your participation, should you so desire.

The monument, described in the enclosed souvenir brochure, is presently under construction at the sculptor's studio at Orient Point, Long Island, New York. The figure will be bronze; the semi-circular bench will be of a North Carolina granite the shading of which approximates that of the original marble of our building; and the floor will be of a pearly, black Norwegian granite in which perhaps 3000 celestial bodies will be represented by imbedded stainless steel nailheads, with the planets in bronze. A precise star map on this scale, to serve as a template, has generously been prepared by the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington.

An existing grove of trees near the corner of 22nd Street and Constitution Avenue provides an ideal site for the contemplative figure. When directly abeam of an automobile on Constitution Avenue, the passengers' eye level is at the floor of the monument and its backdrop appears to be the relatively distant State Department building. It is, therefore, on our grounds, yet an object somewhat apart.

On occasion, I have been asked, "Why Einstein?" Surely, for our membership that question answers itself. Admittedly his greatest accomplishments antedated his deliberate decision to become an American citizen. He was an honored Foreign Associate before he was elected to membership. Few would question his status as the foremost theoretical scientist of our century. More than that, as the enclosed brochure indicates,

"Designed to commemorate the enormous contributions of Einstein's genius, this monument will serve also to symbolize the striving of the human spirit for understanding, freedom and justice, to remind the American people of the high purpose of our scientific and technical endeavors, and help rekindle belief in the possibility of a better future through scientific progress."

No other figure in the history of American science can so well serve these ends.

As some of you will know, celebratory observances at the time of Einstein's Centennial in March 1979 are being planned by various organizations including the Institute for Advanced Study, the Smithsonian Institution and several institutions abroad. By delaying the dedication ceremony to the Sunday afternoon just preceding our Annual Meeting we hope to maximize the number of members in attendance, to avoid conflict with these other observances, and to increase the probability of fair weather during the ceremony, while also giving the sculptor and engineers an additional month of Spring in which to complete their labors. I hope that you will all plan to be with us.

An endeavor such as this, executed properly--and we should have it no other way--is rather costly, about \$1,500,000 in all. To initiate the process and assure that the deadline will be met, the Academy Council authorized a bank loan of the necessary funds in the expectation that, in due course, these funds will be replaced by contributions in sufficient amount to meet the full costs of the project. I am pleased and grateful that a most distinguished Steering Committee, listed in the brochure has agreed to assist us in raising these funds. That Committee has commenced to function and we trust that we shall soon begin to receive significant contributions.

It seems fitting that this new landmark in the nation's capital should also be, in significant measure, a gift from the scientific community to the people and government that have so generously supported our efforts. In that spirit, I am confident that many members will wish to contribute financially to this project, on a scale commensurate with their own resources.

In addition, some members are affiliated with organizations to which this enterprise will be seen as an attractive opportunity to express their confidence in the future of technology, their joy in the progress of science, and their appreciation that the profundity of intellect, deep spirituality and insistence on justice so vivid

in Einstein also represent the highest elements of American tradition and the hope of mankind. Some will be able to inform us of individuals or organizations to whom I or the Committee might turn for support with some prospect for success. In short, I hope that each of you will regard yourself as a member of a "U.S. National Committee for the Einstein Memorial" and do what you can to help assure the success of this project. The Academy is, of course, a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions to this fund are fully tax deductible. For those so desiring, contributions should be sent to:



The Einstein Memorial Fund
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20418

The schedule is rather forbidding. Most of the expenses will be incurred in the next few months. Any delay will make it impossible to unveil the memorial on 22 April, next. Hence, to the extent that you find it possible and desirable to participate, I hope that you will do so at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Handler".

Philip Handler
President

Enclosure